

Kind, Unjust, Generous Charles
Reade 85

daughter has acted also—not enough to please me, for I have a very firm belief in her talents—and has shown again and again that she can design and make clothes for the stage that are both lovely and effective. In all my most successful stage dresses lately she has had a hand, and if I had anything to do with a national theatre, I should, without prejudice, put her in charge of the wardrobe at once !

I may be a proud parent, but I have always refrained from " pushing " my children. They have had to fight for themselves, and to their mother their actual achievements have mattered very little. So long as they were not lazy, I have always felt that I could forgive them anything !

And now Teddy and Edy—Teddy in a minute white pique suit, and Edy in a tiny kimono, in which she looked as Japanese as everything which surrounded her—dis-appear from these pages for quite a long time. But all this time, you must understand, they are educating their mother !

Charles Reade, having: brought me back to the stage, and being my manager into the bargain, was deeply concerned about my progress as an actress. During the run of " The Wandering Heir " he used to sit in a private box every night to watch the play, and would send me round notes between the acts, telling me what I had done ill and what well in the preceding act. Dear, kind, unjust, generous, cautious, impulsive, passionate, gentle Charles Reade I Never have I known any one who combined

so many
qualities, far asunder as the poles, in one
single disposition.
He was placid and turbulent, yet always
majestic. He
was inexplicable and entirely lovable—a
stupid old dear,
and as wise as Solomon I He seemed
guileless, and yet
had moments of suspicion and craftiness
worthy of the
wisdom of the serpent. One moment he
would call me